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CELEBRITY CAMEOS ABOUND IN MUPPETS MOST WANTED **PAGE 15**



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Province seeing STARS over air ambulance deal

\$159-million contract.

Auditor general says government broke rules, failed to ensure oversight and make sure it got value for money

Manitoba's auditor general says the government broke its own tendering rules and didn't ensure it was getting value for money when it signed a \$159-million air ambulance contract.

Carol Bellringer also says the province failed to establish proper monitoring of patient safety on the air ambulance fleet.

Bellringer says a 10-year contract signed in 2012 with the Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service, known as STARS, was never put out for public ten-

der and was signed despite evidence the cost-per-mission would be up to 600 per cent more than in other provinces.

"Without the benefit of a tendering process, (Manitoba) Health could not demonstrate that they are achieving value for money, balancing price with economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the goods and services required," Bellringer wrote in her annual report tabled in the legislature Wednesday.

Manitoba recently grounded STARS for three months after three critical instances where patients may have been deprived of oxygen. The non-profit agency, which has operated for years in Alberta and Saskatchewan, agreed to upgrade its equipment, increase training and work with a new oversight panel.

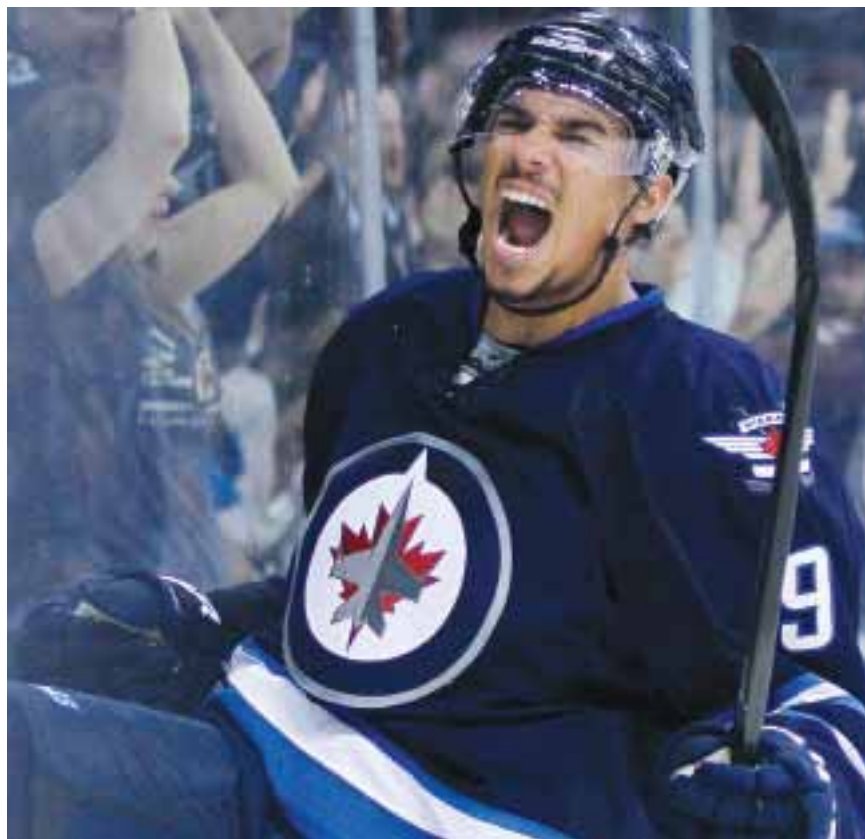
Bellringer said Manitoba didn't adequately explore

other options, such as expanding its own fleet of 24 air ambulances called Lifeflight, before it signed the contract in 2012. The government's own analysis showed Lifeflight could have completed around 600 missions at a cost of \$3 million, she said.

Although concerns about the quality of patient care aboard the ambulances were raised, Bellringer said Manitoba Health doesn't have an adequate way of monitoring the "patient care that STARS provides."

"Such a process may have detected some quality of patient care concerns earlier."

Bellringer recommends the province develop better ways to monitor STARS operations and ensure its insurance certificates are updated annually. The province has agreed to all recommendations. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



JETS SCREAM PAST AVS

Evander Kane celebrates a goal against the Colorado Avalanche during the second period in Winnipeg on Wednesday. The Jets won 5-4 in overtime. See story, page 21. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Freeze-out

No weekly council seminars on frozen pipes

Winnipeg's city council won't be mandated to hold weekly seminars on the frozen pipes situation.

In a near unanimous vote on Wednesday, the city's executive policy committee accepted as information — which means no further action will be taken — a motion calling for the meetings.

Coun. Justin Swandel argued a seminar was already held and more are not necessary since city officials are answering councillors' questions, and there is plenty of information online.

"I'm confident in saying that weekly council seminars aren't required right now," he said, adding the city has done a "good job" in communicating.

However, Coun. Russ Wyatt disagreed and was the lone vote against simply accepting the report as information.

If the committee didn't favour weekly meetings, Wyatt suggested "a compromise" of holding at least one more seminar for councillors so they can be briefed on the "unprecedented" depth of frost at eight feet.

Mayor Sam Katz said he can call a seminar at any point if enough councillors ask for one.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Raise for cops feasible: Mayor

Mayor Sam Katz brushed aside concerns about whether the city can cover new wage hikes for Winnipeg police, stating that the 2014 budget included enough cash for just such a move.

Executive policy committee members voted on Wednesday to recommend the ratification of the collective agreement between the city and the Winnipeg Police Association at next week's council meeting.

"That money is in the

budget," said Katz following the meeting, adding that for 2015 and 2016, budgets are preliminary and can be adjusted.

Earlier in the EPC meeting, lawyer and city hall watcher David Sanders raised concerns, saying "all of the other new collective bargaining agreements will also require significant modifications to the 2015 and 2016 operating budget projections."

He estimates the increased cost at \$64 million.

The four-year agreement between the city and the police association is retroactive to Dec. 24 of 2012 and runs until Dec. 23 of 2016.

It includes wage adjustments of two per cent for the first six months of 2013, 2014 and 2015; an additional 1.5 per cent for the last six months of 2013 and 2014, an additional one per cent for the last six months of 2015; and three per cent in 2016.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO



Mayor Sam Katz said the money to cover wage hikes for police is in this year's budget. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Will city hall give you your \$305 back?

Frozen pipes. Admin to report on how much it would cost city to reimburse citizens



BERNICE PONTANILLA

bernice.pontanilla@metronews.ca

There's no specific time frame in sight for citizens waiting to find out if they'll be reimbursed the \$305 bill they paid the city before Feb. 28 for thawing their frozen pipes.

On Wednesday, Mayor Sam Katz's powerful executive policy committee voted in favour of having the city's public service take a look at what such a decision would cost.

Katz said he and the other members of EPC "want to see the numbers."

"Right now everybody's kind of in the dark ... let's get all the facts and figures, which

I think they can get fairly quickly," said Katz following the EPC meeting.

"Once we get that information, the ultimate decision will remain with council."

The lack of a specific time frame, however, angered Coun. Paula Havixbeck, who brought the reimbursement motion to last Thursday's finance committee meeting and wants to see it go back to Jan. 1.

Havixbeck said Diane Sacher, the city's director of water and waste, promised to bring forward some preliminary numbers on costs to Wednesday's EPC meeting, which Sacher failed to do.

Sacher said during the finance committee meeting, "I could come to EPC with more information, prepared with more information," to which Havixbeck said, "There you go."

As for the frost levels below pavement, Sacher said



Diane Sacher, the city's director of water and waste, said crews are now seeing frost levels below pavement at eight feet. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

on Thursday they're now seeing it to a depth of eight feet.

Since there were no frost depth records kept for 1979,

the last coldest winter, Sacher said this is unprecedented and could very well be a record for the city.

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1 NEWS



It took Winnipeg radio personality Ace Burpee just a few hours to organize a fundraiser to help pay for the funeral of Gracie Herntier-Clark, 7, who died Sunday after being mauled by two dogs near Oakbank. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Fundraiser to help pay for funeral of mauled girl

Listeners respond.

Radio personality's Bud, Spud and Steak event quickly comes together

Winnipeggers are rallying to help the family of Gracie Herntier-Clark.

The seven-year-old St. Andrews School student died after being mauled by two Alaskan malamute dogs while playing outside the home of a family friend near Oakbank Sunday.

On Wednesday morning, Winnipeg radio personality Ace Burpee announced on-air his plans to hold a Bud, Spud and Steak fundraiser Friday to help

pay for the little girl's funeral being held Saturday.

Just a few hours after making the plans public, Burpee told Metro the response had been overwhelming.

"Everyone universally finds it tragic and people want to help, they want an outlet for their grief and they want to celebrate the life of this young girl," said Burpee, noting he's already received a \$10,000 donation for the family and has had no problem finding silent-auction prizes for the event. "People have been coming to me, they're so good.... My phone just keeps going off."

Prizes for the silent auction will be "massive," said Burpee, and already include a signed

Winnipeg Jets jersey, Jets tickets and tickets to Katy Perry's August show at MTS Centre.

Burpee began organizing the fundraiser while going to air Wednesday after hearing from co-workers of Herntier-Clark's friends and family Tuesday night.

"They were trying to put something together quickly," he said. "They're really, really upset, and it's really sad, so to help them out is a big deal."

The fundraiser runs from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday at The Oak at Canad Inns Destination Centre Transcona. Tickets are \$20 and available at the front desk or by calling 204-694-7469.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Auditor's report

Criminals crammed, lack supervision

Manitoba's auditor says adult offenders are being crammed into correctional facilities and aren't always adequately supervised once they are released into the community.

Carol Bellringer says in her annual report that Manitoba's correctional facilities are around 126 per cent full.

She says one-third of risk assessments done for released offenders were late so some offenders weren't supervised adequately.

Bellringer says the government reduced supervision standards in parts of the province to reduce workload.

But she says that means staff spend less time with offenders. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Crime

Man attempted to abduct girl: Police

Winnipeg police say a young girl was able to escape after a man tried to abduct her on Arbuthnot Street near Warsaw Avenue in Fort Rouge.

Police said the girl, 11, was walking to school just before 9 a.m. when an unknown man grabbed her by the arm and tried to pull her down the street. She managed to break free and run home.

Police are looking for a white man, 50 to 60 years old, short with a small build and a mole on his face. He was wearing a black jacket, blue jeans, a scarf and a maroon toque with a pompom. **METRO**

Investigation

Witnesses sought in pedestrian collision

Winnipeg police are asking anyone who saw a woman get hit by a vehicle on Pembina Highway Tuesday night to give them a call.

The 64-year-old woman was taken to hospital with life-threatening injuries after a northbound vehicle hit her while she walked east across Pembina Highway at Plaza Drive around 10 p.m.

The driver of the vehicle stopped and stayed until police arrived.

Anyone with information about the accident who has not yet spoken to police is asked to call investigators at 204-986-6271.

METRO



Police on the case of woman's death

A police car remained on scene in the 200 block of Balmoral Street Wednesday morning after a woman was found dead in a residence in the area Monday. Police are calling it a suspicious death pending an autopsy.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO

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Armed Crimean self-defence forces stand outside the Training Centre of the Naval Forces of Ukraine while taking over its control in Sevastopol, Crimea, on Wednesday. ANDREW LUBIMOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kosovo and Crimea

Putin's justification for Crimea secession

Vladimir Putin's key argument justifying Crimea's secession from Ukraine and annexation by Russia is the West's acceptance of Kosovo's declaration of

statehood in 2008. Kosovo and Crimea both sought independence against the wishes of their central governments but the two situations have many differences. With the strong support of the United States, the ethnic Albanian-dominated Kosovo seceded from Serbia over Serbia's strong objections. Russia, a historic Slavic ally of the Serbs, at the time argued that the Kosovo

declaration was a serious breach of international law that could lead to a series of statehood claims elsewhere in the world. Enter Crimea, Ukraine's strategic Black Sea peninsula. After Crimean residents voted overwhelmingly Sunday to secede and join Russia, Putin is invoking the precedent of Kosovo to justify the vote while the West insists the ballot is invalid. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Russian President Vladimir Putin
RIA-NOVOSTI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine bows to Russia's annexation

Following the referendum. Putin signed a treaty on Tuesday to incorporate Crimea into Russia

Surrendering to Russia's inexorable seizure of Crimea, Ukraine announced plans Wednesday for mass troop withdrawals from the strategic peninsula as Moscow-loyal forces seized control of Kyiv's naval headquarters here and detained its commander.

Attempting to face down the unblinking incursion, Ukraine said it would hold joint military exercises with the United States and Britain.

Hours after masked Russian-speaking troops forced their way onto Ukraine's main naval base here, forlorn Ukrainian soldiers streamed out carrying clothing and other belongings in bags. A group of local militia and Cosacks, later joined by officers from Russia's Black Sea Fleet, looked on.

Just how many retreating troops Ukraine will have to absorb in what amounts to a military surrender of Crimea was unclear. Many servicemen have already switched sides to Russia, but author-

Trapped

Thousands of Ukrainian soldiers and sailors are trapped on military bases, surrounded by heavily armed Russian forces.

- The Kyiv government said it was drawing up plans to evacuate its troops.

ities said they were prepared to relocate as many as 25,000 soldiers and their families to the Ukrainian mainland.

Humbled but defiant, Ukraine lashed out symbolically at Russia by declaring its intent to leave the Moscow-dominated Commonwealth of Independent States, a loose alliance of 11 former Soviet nations. The last nation to leave the group was Georgia, which lost a brief war with neighbouring Russia in 2008 and ended up losing two separatist territories.

Vice-President Joe Biden, in Lithuania trying to reassure nations bordering Russia alarmed by the sight of an expansion-minded neighbour, said the U.S. would stand by Ukraine.

"We're in this with you, together," Biden said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Flight MH370: FBI helps study data deleted from pilot's flight simulator



A woman reads messages for passengers aboard a missing Malaysia Airlines plane, at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, Malaysia. LAI SENG SIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Malaysian authorities. They say it seems the flight was deliberately turned back with its communications systems disabled

The FBI is aiding Malaysian authorities investigate deleted data on a flight simulator belonging to the pilot of the missing Malaysia Airlines plane, while distraught relatives of the passengers unleashed their anger Wednesday, wailing in frustration at 12 days of uncertainty.

The anguish of relatives of the 239 people on Flight 370 boiled over at a briefing near Kuala Lumpur's airport. Two Chinese women who shouted at Malaysian authorities and unfurled a banner accusing officials of "hiding the truth" were removed from the room. In a heart-wrenching scene, one woman screamed in sorrow as she was dragged away.

"I want you to help me to find my son! I want to see my son!" one of the two unidentified women said. "We have been here for 10 days."

Files containing records of flight simulations were deleted Feb. 3 from the de-

vice found in the home of the Malaysia Airlines pilot, Capt. Zaharie Ahmad Shah, Malaysian police chief Khalid Abu said.

It was not immediately clear whether investigators thought that deleting the files was unusual. The files might hold signs of unusual flight paths that could help explain where the missing plane went.

Defence Minister Hishamuddin Hussein told a news conference that Zaharie is considered innocent until proven guilty. He said members of the pilot's family are co-operating in the investigation. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Pistorius. Girlfriend was standing in toilet cubicle as first shot hit hip, court hears

Oscar Pistorius's girlfriend was standing in a toilet cubicle and facing the closed door when she was hit in the right hip by the first of four bullets that he fired, a police ballistics expert testified Wednesday at the double-amputee runner's murder trial.

Reeva Steenkamp fell back onto a magazine holder in the cubicle and crossed her arms over her head to protect herself, said Capt. Christiaan Mangena. The second bullet missed Steenkamp and ricocheted off the wall and broke into fragments, bruising her back, he

said. Steenkamp was then hit in her right arm and in the head by the third and fourth shots fired by Pistorius with his 9 mm pistol, he said. She collapsed with her head on the toilet seat, Mangena said.

Pistorius, 27, is charged with premeditated murder in Steenkamp's shooting death on Feb. 14 last year and faces 25 years to life in prison if convicted. He says he shot Steenkamp, 29, by mistake through a locked door in his bathroom because he thought she was a dangerous nighttime intruder.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Empty mansion

Teenagers charged with breaking and partying

Authorities have filed criminal charges against 14 teenagers who allegedly broke into a Southern California mansion and held a party that caused more than \$1 million in damage and losses, including the theft of a stuffed snow leopard. Authorities say the party promoted on social media in November brought more than 100 teens to the La Habra Heights mansion while the owner was away.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ferocious feline to be an Animal Planet star

'My Cat from Hell.'

Expert to feature Lux, the cat from Oregon who attacked a family after a child pulled its tail



Lux, the cat who was the subject of a 911 call. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The large cat that attacked a baby and trapped an Oregon family in a bedroom touched off an Internet uproar that worries Jackson Galaxy, star of Animal Planet's My Cat from Hell.

Cats don't become ferocious felines that turn on their families for no reason, says the cat behaviour expert, who is heading to Portland soon to work with the four-

year-old part-Himalayan pet named Lux. Galaxy will film the visit for his show's fifth

season, which kicks off April 26.

"Every parental site on the Internet blames the cat for this confrontation. Every pet site blames the family," he said, adding that something is wrong if the cat is acting out. "We need to step away from the hysteria. There is a story behind all this. Don't assume anything."

Lux became a worldwide phenomenon after owner Lee Palmer called 911 and said the cat had cornered him, his girlfriend, their baby and the family dog. Palmer says his seven-month-old pulled Lux's tail, and he kicked the animal after it scratched the child. Then, the cat "just went off over the edge," Palmer told 911. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Newfoundland house buried by tough winter

Janice Gould and Rick Cooper's house in Port au Choix, N.L., is almost completely buried under snow on Wednesday. The couple were away most of the winter, but started to get calls from neighbours earlier this month telling them their house was in trouble. Gould said they rushed home to discover it was completely covered, with only its roof poking out of the snow. HO-JANICE GOULD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Different student protest

When Northampton Community College cancelled spring break to make up for excessive snow days, students decided to protest — by wearing flip-flops, bathing suits and tank tops to class. Not to mention plastic leis.

The imaginary beach day

on Tuesday at the college in Bethlehem Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania drew sympathy, not scorn, from winter-weary administrators at the school. They set up a Tiki bar with an inflatable palm tree in the campus food court to serve

non-alcoholic drinks. Protest organizers Thoai Luong and John Crounce, both 20, were disappointed in the turnout of 15. But all the festivities couldn't change the fact that a weeklong vacation was nixed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Joe Oliver. New finance minister plans to 'continue the government's agenda'

For a time, the Conservative government used something called "event in a box" to help guide MPs on public announcements, a ready-made communications kit that could be rolled out with no fuss, no muss.

As Joe Oliver stepped into the Finance portfolio Wednesday, replacing Jim Flaherty, some wondered whether he would be given any latitude, or simply be rolling out a pre-election package.

"My overarching priority is to continue the government's agenda of creating jobs and growth right across the country," Oliver said in an interview.

Oliver will preside over just one federal budget before the fall 2015 election, one that is guaranteed to feature a surplus for the first time since 2007.



Joe Oliver was sworn in as finance minister Wednesday in Ottawa.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Whatever moves Oliver makes will be done at least partly in the context of electoral strategy and the shape of the next Conservative platform, elements highly controlled by the prime minister and party headquarters. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Crime. Woman arranged murder of parents to stay with boyfriend, court told

A woman plotted to have her parents killed in a staged home invasion because they forbade her from seeing the man she loved, but her plan started to unravel when her father survived the attack, prosecutors alleged Wednesday.

Jennifer Pan hatched the plan after her parents made her choose between them and her high school sweetheart, co-accused Daniel Wong. Crown lawyer Jennifer Halajian told a Toronto-area court in her opening statement.

Pan, Wong and three other men — Eric Carty, Lenford Crawford and David Mylvaganam — are charged with first-degree murder in the death of

Quoted

"As long as her parents were alive, that hope was dead."

Crown lawyer Jennifer Halajian, who said in her opening statement that Pan hoped to spend the rest of her life with Daniel Wong

her mother, 53-year-old Bieh Ha Pan, and attempted murder in the shooting of her father, Huei Hann Pan.

While they didn't all pull the trigger, each "participated in carrying out Jennifer Pan's plan to murder her parents," Halajian said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Alberta Premier Alison Redford announces her resignation in Edmonton on Wednesday. Redford has been struggling to deal with unrest in her Progressive Conservative caucus over her leadership style and questionable expenses. **JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Alberta premier stepping down

Effective Sunday. Weeks of turmoil over lavish spending culminate in Alison Redford announcing her resignation

Alberta Premier Alison Redford is resigning.

Redford has been struggling to deal with unrest in her Progressive Conservative caucus over her leadership style and questionable expenses. She says her resignation will be effective Sunday.

"Quite simply, I am not prepared to allow party and caucus infighting to get in the way," she told supporters gathered in the legislature rotunda for the announcement. "I've given my heart and soul to this province, every minute for the last two and a half years."

Redford could not weather weeks of revelations of lavish spending. It began when it surfaced that she had spent \$45,000 on first-class air tickets and a government plane to go to Nelson Mandela's funeral in South Africa.

Other revelations fell like hammer blows: Redford

using government planes for a vacation; to fly her daughter and her daughter's friends around; to go to a family funeral in Vancouver.

There were calls for Redford to repay the money for the South Africa trip. She only did so after caucus tensions spilled into the public realm.

Last week, things went from bad to worse when Redford's character came into question.

Calgary backbencher Len Webber quit the Tory caucus, saying he could no longer stomach Redford's temper tantrums and abuse of subordinates. She wasn't

a "nice lady," he said.

On the weekend, Redford was taken to task by Progressive Conservative party executive in a closed-door meeting. They emerged to say Redford would be given an unspecified "work plan" to follow.

The turmoil continued.

On Sunday, 10 government members met to debate whether to leave caucus and sit as Independents.

On Monday, Donna Kennedy-Glans, the associate minister for electricity, quit saying the promised reforms by Redford were dying on the vine.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Convictions for aiding suicide overturned

William Melchert-Dinkel. Ex-nurse had been convicted of encouraging Brampton student to jump into Ottawa river in 2008

The Minnesota Supreme Court on Wednesday reversed

the convictions of a former nurse accused of encouraging two people whom he met online to kill themselves.

The court ruled that the language in the state's assisted-suicide law that pertains to "encouraging" suicide is unconstitutional.

William Melchert-Dinkel's 360-day jail sentence had been on hold pending the outcome of his appeal.

Melchert-Dinkel, 51, was convicted on two counts of aiding suicide in the deaths of two people: Nadia Kajouji, 18, of Brampton, Ont., who jumped into a frozen Ottawa river in 2008; and Mark Drybrough, 32, of England, who hanged himself in 2005. Kajouji was a student at Carleton University in Ottawa.

Prosecutors say Melchert-Dinkel played an integral role

in their deaths, including giving step-by-step instructions.

Evidence showed that Melchert-Dinkel posed as a suicidal female nurse, feigned compassion and offered instructions on how they could kill themselves. According to court documents, he entered into fake suicide pacts with about 10 people, five of whom he believed killed themselves. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



William Melchert-Dinkel leaves the courthouse in Faribault, Minn. with his attorney, right, and wife in this Feb. 2011 photo. **ROBB LONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Obese baby put on diet

Eight-month-old Santiago Mendoza sits at a clinic in Bogota, Colombia, Tuesday. The baby weighs more than 20 kilograms and will be on a diet to lose weight, said therapist Salvador Palacios of a non-profit organization that cares for obese children.

FERNANDO VERGARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Belgium

War armament kills two workers in Flanders field

A shell or grenade from First World War exploded at an industrial site in the former Flanders battlefields, killing two construction workers and injuring two more.

Every year the battlefields in western Belgium produce hundreds of armaments from the 1914-1918 war, and most are destroyed without incident. The Flanders battlefields cover dozens of cities where allies clashed with German forces. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Kenya Wildlife Service

Cartel behind poaching, former director says

A famed scientist and founding former chairman of the Kenya Wildlife Service is urging Kenya's president to invoke emergency measures to protect elephants and rhinos.

Richard Leakey said Wednesday that the Kenyan Wildlife Service has been infiltrated by people enriching themselves off poaching. He said the poaching ring leaders are known, but that the government has taken no action. He did not name names. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Port Metro Vancouver. Government prepping back-to-work legislation

The government and Port Metro Vancouver aren't waiting to hammer out a deal with striking truckers and their union.

Instead, the B.C. government was prepping back-to-work legislation to get 250 Uni-for truckers to resume moving containers at the port, which is struggling with a massive backlog due to a three-week-long strike by more than 1,000 striking drivers (most don't belong to a union), the province announced Wednesday.

The action comes after the union didn't accept a 14-point plan, proposed by the government one week ago, to resolve

issues including unpaid wait times and rate cutting.

"Suppliers are feeling the effects right now in their stores," said Transport Minister Lisa Raitt during a Tuesday speech to the Toronto Region Board of Trade.

Raitt began to rhyme off a long list of national companies like Home Depot, Canadian Tire, Loblaw, Target and Hudson's Bay she said are being impacted, noting that several corporate officials brought their concerns to her during Tuesday's lunch.

METRO IN VANCOUVER, WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Market Minute



DOLLAR
88.93¢
(-0.86¢)

Natural gas: \$4.47 US (no change)
Dow Jones: 16,222.17 (-114.02)



TSX
14,334.04 (-34.94)



OIL
\$100.37 US (+\$0.67)



GOLD
\$1,341.30 US (-\$17.70)

Toyota hit with record \$1.2B penalty in the U.S.



A Toyota Camry is shown after it crashed as it exited Interstate 80 in Utah in 2010. Police suspect problems with the Camry's accelerator or floor mat caused the crash that left two people dead and two others injured. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Largest of its kind.

While feds settled with Japanese automaker over safety issues that became public in 2009, a criminal charge was filed

Criticism

"Toyota confronted a public safety emergency as if it were a simple public relations problem."

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder

The U.S. government announced a \$1.2 billion US settlement with Toyota Motor Corp. on Wednesday and filed a criminal charge alleging the company defrauded consumers by issuing misleading statements about safety issues in Toyota and Lexus vehicles. The penalty is the largest of its kind ever imposed on an auto company, the Justice Department said.

The action concludes a years-long criminal investigation into the Japanese automaker's disclosure of safety problems, which focused on whether Toyota was forthright in reporting problems

of unintended acceleration troubles.

The company admitted to misleading consumers and regulators in providing assurances that it had addressed the problems — which became public in 2009 following a car crash in San Diego that killed a family of four — through a limited safety recall of certain models. Toyota knew at the time that other models susceptible to the same acceleration problem had not been recalled and also took steps to conceal a separate acceleration problem related to a faulty pedal, according to the Justice Department. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Chromecast coming to Canada

Canadian Netflix and YouTube users looking for a cheap and easy way to stream content on their big screen TVs will finally be able to buy Google's Chromecast device starting on



Wednesday.

Originally launched in the U.S. last July, the small \$39 gadget plugs into a TV's HDMI port and is powered either through a TV's USB connection or by

plugging into an electrical outlet.

The Chromecast doesn't come with a remote. Instead, users control streaming content on their TV with phone or tablet apps or via the Google Chrome web browser on a computer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Manitoba's New Home Builders are ready to impress

at the

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Parade of Homes

MARCH 1 - 23, 2014

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metronews.ca
Thursday, March 20, 2014

VOICES

11

SOCIAL MEDIA ETIQUETTE FOR DUMMIES

I get in Facebook fights often.

I try to be civil, but then someone will post about Phil Kessel or Joffrey Baratheon or the Judeo-Christian God and suddenly I need to let the world know why their take on the individual in question is hopelessly wrong.

Digital progress has allowed me an emotional throwback. Social media is where I can revive the rip-roaring bull sessions that used to happen at house parties in my 20s when the smell of pot was in the air, half the guests were face down in the nacho dip, and those still conscious would talk about Big Questions. Why are we on Earth? Who shot JFK? Who's better — Kirk or Picard? Did Kirk and/or Picard shoot JFK? There was a lot of drinking.

Now I can have the same sort of debates without staying up late or buying my own alcohol. (I bought my own at least twice).

Arguing without angering friends or followers can be



HE SAYS

John Mazerolle

metronews.ca

tricky, of course, so there are rules I follow for using social media with tact. Some involve arguing, while others are just about comporting myself well online.

As with all social-media arguments, I believe my advice is Absolute Truth and anyone who disagrees is an idiot worthy of scorn. It's just the way things are done online.

John's Guide to Online Civility

Part I: Fighting Tips

- As in real life, the soundest way to deal with a fight on Facebook is to sigh heavily, clap slowly and say, "Oh, good point."
- Follow up all death threats with a smiley face to show you're probably joking.
- Whoever posts the last comment in an angry argument thread wins.

You can avoid direct confrontation with passive aggression. For example, say a friend's status says, "I like peanut butter," you might write "You're an idiot" and you'd lose a friend. But if you write, "Any-

body who likes peanut butter is an idiot" you have plausible deniability.

Part II: General Rules

- Remember that writing an offensive or ignorant tweet is one of the quickest ways for aspiring writers to get published in the Huffington Post.
- Employers commonly look at prospective workers' social media. If you must post photos of yourself heavily drinking, try to drink products from companies you might like to work for some day.
- To avoid annoying friends, try to reach a one-to-one ratio in statuses between petty whining and obnoxious bragging.
- If you must announce a death before notifying next of kin, be sure to tag it SPOILERS.

The rules in Part II might actually help you avoid arguments, if you're into that sort of thing. But regardless of whether you prefer to duke it out or play it cool, remember: Facebook and Twitter are public forums. If you must rant and don't want anyone to know, try Google Plus.

Last word!

ZOOM

Fancy a round trip to N.Y.C.?



RANDY SCOTT SLAVIN/REX FEATURES

Photograph turns city topsy-turvy

This mind-bending image of North Cove Marina in New York City will have you in a spin. The surreal landscape was created by photographer Randy Scott Slavin, who used a clever photographic technique to contort the panorama to jaw-dropping effect. **METRO**

Q & A

Inspiration and challenges

What's your inspiration?

My work has evolved from a love of landscape photography and dis-orientating artwork of M.C. Escher. A friend introduced me to Escher's

images in elementary school and it left an indelible mark on my taste ever since.

How is the photography challenging for you?

You have to wait for the right light and in the process deal with everything that mother nature has to offer.

Snap happy

100

individual photographs were used to create the 360-degree composite image. Using picture-editing software, Slavin stitched the photos together to produce a stereographic projection (the mapping of a spherical image onto a flat plane).

Clickbait



LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

After reaching peak Flappy Bird last month, the teeming masses of the Internet have been on the lookout for the next game capable of making frustration fun. Fortunately, a 19-year-old developer has stepped up to the plate with 2048, a few lines of open-source code that resembles a math nerd's version of Candy Crush. The original game can be found at gabrielecirulli.github.io/2048, but there are also a host of goofy remixes that are more fun — or at least more weird — to play.



SCREEN GRAB

Doge 2048:

So 2048. Much difficulty. Wow. (doge2048.com)

Doctor Who 2048:

This game replaces the numbers of the original 2048 with various portraits of the actors who have portrayed the Time Lord. If you can build up to Matt Smith, you win! (games.usvsth3m.com/2048-doctor-who-edition)

com/2048-doctor-who-edition)

4:

If you find 2048 too hard, try 4. If you can't win in two moves, you might want to check with your doctor. (ehzhang.github.io/4/)

2048 3D:

2048 in three dimensions. I can't even. (joppi.github.io/2048-3D/)

Twitter



@metropicks asked: A smartwatch that uses Google Now was announced. What would you want your smartwatch to be able to do?

@Canucklehead_ca: Come up with funny responses to questions immediately. (See also: delay last call.)

@TrevorMarr: ToDo list w/ GPS proximity reminder so I don't go past store/shop w/out picking up item I needed. #IWasJustThere

@redsultan: Do basic chores while I'm asleep. Project a 3D holographic

image if me to replace me at exams, awkward meetings.

@mtlkeith: Tell me I am eligible for retirement!

@EvanDentremont: I have a smart watch. It already does everything. Incoming calls, emails, texts, blackjack (seriously)

@mitch_waugh: why the need for a "smart watch", when we all carry around our smart phones anyways.

Follow @metropicks

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Send us your comments: winnipegletters@metronews.ca



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SPRING 2014

Parade of Homes

MARCH 1 – 23, 2014

Spring Parade Showcase

BY MIKE MOORE, PRESIDENT, MANITOBA HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION

"THESE PARADE HOMES REPRESENT THE ABSOLUTE BEST IN DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION IN MANITOBA AND, FOR THAT MATTER, CANADA"

The Manitoba Home Builders' Association is proud to present this year's version of our annual showcase of new homes, the largest and best Parade of Homes in all of Canada. March symbolizes Spring, warmer weather and the ability to finally get outside and walk around. This has

been a particularly long and cold winter and we've been waiting for the opportunity to visit the various new neighbourhoods throughout our City and Province when they come to life with these fabulous new homes. We are proud and delighted to showcase 36 different builders who will be presenting 122 homes in 31 unique and different neighbourhoods.

These Parade homes represent the absolute best in design and construction in Manitoba and, for that matter, Canada. The skilled craftsmanship that goes into each new home will be evident during your visit. We take great pride in the statement that Manitoba new homes are the best built homes in the country.

A new and exciting feature of this year's Parade is that you, the consumer, gets to decide who wins all of the awards. Everyone who visits any of the homes can rate on site in four different categories:

- a) Overall value and quality of home
- b) Functionality, traffic flow and proportion
- c) Special design features
- d) Interior visual appeal

Every home will have a QR code associated with it. Simply download the QR code app on your smart phone, click on the code in the home and it will take you to a ranking page for that home where you can award it from one to five stars in each of the four listed criteria. If you don't have your phone handy, you can also go to (www.paradeofhomeselect.ca) and rank each home you visited. It's easy to do and, after the Parade, you'll be able to compare your rankings with the winners posted.



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MHBA builder members appreciate the importance of your decision to purchase a new home. That is why they encourage Parade visitors to look carefully at each detail, talk to the sales agents and return for additional visits. After all, show homes are open after the Parade, too. Our builders want to ensure that you are matched with the home that is perfect for your life situation and family for years to come. We believe that this year's selection of new homes offers the right design and the right location for everyone. Be sure to visit as many homes as possible to take full advantage of the Parade. The more homes you visit, the more new and exciting ideas you will get.

Manitoba's new home construction industry is strong and vibrant. MHBA member builders and suppliers keep abreast of the latest technology, trends and techniques to ensure that your new home offers affordability, quality and choice. There has never been a better time to purchase a new home.

Thank you for visiting the 2014 Spring Parade of Homes.

How to join the judging

1. VISIT ANY OF THE PARTICIPATING BUILDER'S SHOWHOMES
2. SCAN THE QR CODE FOUND IN THE SHOWHOME WITH YOUR SMART PHONE OR VISIT WWW.PARADEOFHOMESSELECT.CA
3. RATE THE SHOWHOME ON A SCALE OF 1-5 (1 being low & 5 being high)

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Oakbank, Crystal Lakes
Park City
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River Park South
Royalwood
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14

SCENE

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2
SCENE

Gimme Some Truth returns

Documentaries.

Four-day event to feature everything from punk rock to the northern lights



BACKSTAGE
PASS

Jared Story
winnipeg@metronews.ca

The truth is in there.

The sixth annual Gimme Some Truth Documentary Festival runs March 20 to 23 at Cinematheque (100 Arthur St.). The four-day documentary forum includes panel discussions, lectures, workshops and, of course, screenings of documentaries by Winnipeg and Canadian filmmakers.

"Cinematheque is known for screening a lot of documentary films on a regular basis but this is more of an opportunity for members of the audience who are cinephiles or filmmakers to connect more closely with the work," says Jaimz Asmundson, Cinematheque programming director.

"I think what's different with Gimme Some Truth is we bring in all the filmmakers and they're able to introduce the

Details

The Gimme Some Truth Documentary Festival runs tonight until March 23 at Cinematheque. Festival passes are \$65. Individual tickets for screenings, lectures and workshops range from \$10 to \$20. For tickets and a full schedule, go to gimmesometruth.ca.



A still from Peter Mettler's documentary *Picture of Light*, which explores the aurora borealis. COURTESY PETER METTLER

screenings, and a lot of times they are part of a panel to have a greater discussion about the issues in their films."

One of the Winnipeg documentaries premiering at Gimme Some Truth is Kathryn Martin's *Piss on You: Winnipeg's Early Punk Scene*.

The doc, which screens on Saturday at 9 and 11 p.m., explores the 'Peg's punk scene from 1979 to the mid-'80s and includes interviews with Chris Walter, Mitch Funk of Personality Crisis and Colin Bryce of The Dub Rifles.

Martin says that the Winnipeg punk scene was a direct response to the popular music playing on the radio.

"It was kids saying 'I don't connect to Fleetwood Mac, I connect to the Ramones and

what they're saying,'" Martin says. "It was three chords, simple music, just getting up and doing it. You didn't have to go to university and study classical music, they just decided to pick up instruments and do it. I admire that, and I think we've lost a lot of that. Our society has become so dependent on technology that we've drifted into living our lives in complacency."

Visiting artists in Gimme Some Truth include John Walker, human rights filmmaker John Greyson and director-cinematographer Peter Mettler. Asmundson said he's particularly excited for Mettler's film *Picture of Light* (tonight at 7 p.m.) which was shot in Churchill, Man. and documents the aurora bor-



Crisis is one of the bands featured in Kathryn Martin's documentary *Piss on You: Winnipeg's Early Punk Scene*. COURTESY DOUG HUMISKI

alis.

"We're screening it on 35 mm, which it doesn't get screened on very often," As-

mundson says. "It usually screens on standard definition format, so this will look pretty sharp and spectacular."



60's



70's



80's



SUPER HITS

Since 1979 the Muppeteers' magic has kept Kermit and co. on top

Above and beyond. Before technology made it easier on the puppeteers those from Jim Henson to Frank Oz went to great lengths to bring the characters alive



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

When The Muppet Movie was released in 1979 the Muppet Show Fan Club pointed out the differences between the movie and the puppet's popular television show.

"If you think it's a film version of The Muppet Show, you're in for a surprise. For one thing, it doesn't take place

in the theatre. The Muppet Movie is set in the real world — it's like waiting in line at a gas station and looking up to find Fozzie and Kermit driving the next car over." In the subsequent seven theatrical Muppet movies that magic has been maintained, but the methods have changed over the years. In 2011's The Muppet Movie all the puppets were real, but the way they were filmed changed. To give the puppets a full range of movement the puppeteers — or Muppeteers as they prefer to be called — were often in full view of the camera and digitally removed in post production.

"We removed the puppeteers later," said visual effects artist Max Ivins, "so it gave the puppeteers a lot more freedom in that they didn't have to hide from the camera to do everything." It's a technique used in Muppets Most Wanted, which sees the furry and felt puppets get into trouble on a world



Ricky Gervais, left, with the muppets in a scene from Muppets Most Wanted. AP PHOTO/DISNEY ENTERPRISES

tour when it turns out that Kermit's doppelgänger is the world's number one criminal. Co-starring with the Muppets is Ricky Gervais, Ty Burrell and Tina Fey. In the years before computer generated imagery,

however, Muppeteers hidden from view manipulated all the puppets. And it wasn't always so comfortable.

Everyone remembers Kermit sitting on a log, playing his banjo, in the middle of a

swamp in The Muppet Movie, but did you know that Jim Henson, Kermit's creator and operator until 1990, was under water for the five days it took to shoot the scene?

According to the Muppet

Fan Club he was wedged into a metal tube "under the water, under the log, under the Frog" while hooked up with an air hose, a monitor and a rubber sleeve which allowed him to manipulate the puppet.

Frank Oz was also submerged for Miss Piggy's water ballet scene in The Great Muppet Caper. "I was under the water for a week," he says. "I had three days of scuba training and then down I went." Finally, almost every Muppet movie features Kermit riding a bicycle. How did they do it in the early days? Director James Frawley jokes, "I put him on a three-wheeler until he got his balance, and then I put him on the two-wheeler."

In fact, the effect was achieved by intercutting long shots using a Kermit marionette and close-ups with a hand puppet operated by Henson who rode along with the bike on a low-rolling dolly.

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M.I.A. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Millions NFL is seeking from rapper still M.I.A.

Rapper M.I.A.'s feud with the NFL isn't going away, as the sports league has apparently been after her for two years to pay a \$1.5 million US fine for flipping the bird during the 2012 halftime show, according to the Hollywood Reporter. And on top of that, the NFL is apparently looking for an additional \$15.1 million US as "restitution" because of how much exposure the incident garnered M.I.A. The NFL maintains that her stunt was a "flagrant disregard for the values that form the cornerstone of the NFL brand and the Super

Bowl" and that she breached an agreement to maintain the league's "reputation of wholesome," a charge her legal team finds laughable. "The claim for restitution lacks any basis in law, fact or logic," her reps says. "The continued pursuit of this proceeding is transparently an exercise by the NFL intended to bully and make an example of (M.I.A.) for daring to challenge the NFL." The rapper at least has a sense of humour about it, asking fellow halftime show performer Madonna if she could borrow \$16 million in a tweet that was later deleted.

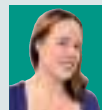
METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



LiLo's sexlist Blooming with names



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

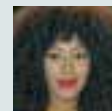
Everyone! Important news! More names on Lindsay Lohan's sex list have been revealed! And yes, you will want to know who they are.

Earlier in the month, I told you about In Touch's "world exclusive" report, in which the mag somehow got a hold of Lindsay Lohan's handwritten conquest list. Heath Ledger, Adam Levine, Zac Efron, Justin Timberlake, Joaquin Phoenix,

Colin Farrell, Evan Peters, Wilmer Valderrama and Jamie Dornan all made the cut, for better or worse. However, some of the names were blanked out for what everyone assumed were legal reasons — but now we know it was just a clever way for In Touch to drag the story on for as long as possible.

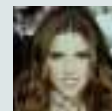
The new batch of names include Ashton Kutcher, Orlando Bloom, Benicio Del Toro, Ryan Phillippe, rugby player Danny Cipriani, NHL player Aaron Voros and director Josh Mond. So, there you go. Everyone famous who Lindsay Lohan has had sex with. The only person who is missing is Danny DeVito. And at this point, he probably didn't make it because she couldn't figure out how to spell DeVito.

Twitter



@solangeknowles

Think'n about adding "this is shade" to all my tweets that r actually shade, in the way u have to add "this is sponsored" to avoid confusion



@AnnaKendrick47

Hey fellow humans, when u see me out picking up prescriptions and want to get a photo, can u be super cool and just not do that? Thank you!!



@pattonoswalt

"That Sherlock Cumberbatch man could find the Malaysian plane in 5 minutes." — someone's mom, probably

Is Schwartzman's pooch really a service dog?

Every dog owner has had a momentary flash of jealousy toward service dogs. Why does someone else get to bring his dog inside a restaurant, they think, while my precious baby has to wait in the car? Such is their love for their pooches that some owners even create false service dog badges and jackets for their darlings — temptingly easy to do, especially since dogs in outfits are always adorable. Now, it seems that Jason Schwartzman's dog Arrow has temporarily joined the service dog ranks.

Grand Budapest Hotel star Schwartzman was recently in Austin for SXSW, with French bulldog Arrow in tow. Master and pup were spotted in the Austin airport preparing to board a flight, and Arrow was wearing a service dog badge, according to Page Six. So what service is Arrow provid-



Jason Schwartzman

ing to Schwartzman? Hard to say. Service dogs are used for a variety of conditions, not all of which are visible to the naked eye. However, there are numerous photos of Schwartzman and Arrow out and about together, with no sign of a service badge in sight. Maybe Arrow's a recent grad from his training — or maybe Schwartzman just didn't want to relegate his furry friend to a crate.

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Keeping it Karl and collected

The shades of showmanship. In the wake of his new flagship store opening and perfume launch, we sat down with Karl Lagerfeld to talk about street style, scents and his ever-growing list of projects

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News

'This is why I don't do selfies. I hate selfies! It's too wide, it's too wide! Take the light away. Okay, I'll go to the shelf over there,' Karl Lagerfeld says.

We're in a hotel suite in Mayfair, London, and I'm following him from one corner of the room to another as we search for good lighting and the right angle for the perfect selfie.

'Oh wait,' he gives my iPhone back to me, 'Please turn it. I can only see you. I can take a selfie of you, hmmm?' Karl then settles for a softly lit spot next to a bookshelf.

He looks remarkably spry and energetic considering that he's just gotten off a plane from Paris for a quick trip here to celebrate the launch of his first flagship store in the UK for his eponymous clothing line and his new perfume range, which is now available in stores globally.

He plans to fly back as soon as the parties are over. ('He doesn't like to be away from Choupette for too long,' one of his team members tells me.) But first there is an interview to do and selfies to take. 'I think they're electronic masturbation,' he says. But he does one for us anyway.

You've opened a new store



Click and clothe: Karl Lagerfeld's new store in London has iPads built into its changing room walls so customers can take selfies while they shop.

PROVIDED

Death to all things dull

"The only thing that tires me is when I'm bored. Boredom is the most tiring thing. Perhaps people have boring lives. I have no time for that, eh?"

and launched a new perfume. This is a big week for you.

This is a big week but I'm used to this kind of week so I don't consider them really big. For me it's a normal week. I do so many things at the same time. I do photos. I work on the collections to come, cruise and all that. For me, something like a launch in Paris is almost like recreation for me. Because it's different from the normal

daily discipline and work.

Well, I think that in addition to bottling your perfume you should bottle your energy and sell that in your stores.

Yes, but I need it myself so I can't sell those bottles, hmmm? My energy in a way improved with age. When I was very young I had very low blood pressure and was tired all the time. Now, I'm just tired to go to bed and sleep. But I'm



Karl and Kenya's successful selfie.
KENYA'S PHONE

not tired in the rest of the day. The only thing that tires me is when I'm bored. Boredom is the most tiring thing. Perhaps people have boring lives. I have no time for that, eh?

Your clothes are obvious hits on the street style circuit. What do you say to those who argue that street style culture has gone too far?

This is a fake problem. Everything changes. I think in today's world there's also big change in magazines and in the collections. We live in the middle of change. Look at how the world has changed since this and all that. The computer has changed it all. Fashion is about change and the world is about change too. The changes in the world are not as quick as the changes in fashion. But we are in the middle of a huge change. I say, don't compare the present to the past if you want to survive happily in the next period. You have to adapt. Times don't have to adapt to you. And then you start to say, 'Oh the good old days'. And then you're over.

Before we go, any dos and don'ts for habitual perfume wearers?

I wear several perfumes at the same time. You know why? Because if you only use one you don't smell it anymore. And then you put so much on



that other people nearly faint when they see you, while you don't think you smell at all. So it's good for the nose to change. And then there are perfumes that I like to put on sheets and curtains.

Where do you normally like to wear it? Behind the ear, on your wrist?

Only on the clothes. Never on the skin. That's not the best thing to do. Even today it's less dangerous than in the past. In the past it was dangerous you know? In the past if you used bergamot and then went into the sun, you got sun spots. That's why women used to put it behind the ears because it's a place that the sun won't touch. I hate to have sun spots on my hands, that's why I wear the gloves. You have to take care of these things, you know? You don't have this kind of problem but I have.

Karl! You've done so many things.
Never enough.

You once said that you would never put your name to toilet paper.

I haven't been proposed with that kind of project yet and I don't think it's that chic but it's stuff everybody needs so that could change my mind.

Trends Report

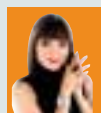
Ugly shoes are set to be the next big trend this spring, seen all over the runways at Milan and Paris fashion weeks. Go online to Trends Report and take a look at the 'ugly' shoes, which seem to go after comfort first, and let me know — would you choose heels or step into a pair of these?

- Online. Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetrolreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report

Photo: Getty Images



Twitter



JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.



Adored @LINEknitwear @WMCFashionWeek. So much scope! Varied textures, croc embossed leather, slinky angora. Lush+sexy



Imaginative texturing and a nod toward future femininity at #MikhaelKale

Ceiling the deal with colour that hits the high spots

White isn't the only option. Colourful ceiling exceptions to the blank canvas rule



DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

I am re-painting the inside of my house this spring and I'd like to paint the ceilings a colour other than white. What are the designer rules?
— Caren Lim, Vancouver

I'm sure you've often heard that ceilings should always be painted white, as it helps bounce natural light down into the room and offers visual relief from all the other colours and patterns in a room. That decorator rule holds true most of the time, but there are a few exceptions when changing up the colour of the ceiling has some advantages.

Extra-high ceilings

An extra-high ceiling in a small room can make a room feel smaller as it throws the proportion of the room off, giving it the cracker-jack box effect. Painting the ceiling (and any crown moldings) the same colour as the walls will help to visually lower the ceiling and soften the edge from wall to ceiling.

Vaulted rooms

Angled ceilings and walls are often features on the upper floors of older homes. A trick

Generous to a vault

Painting the ceiling (and any crown moldings) the same colour as the walls will help to visually lower the ceiling and soften the edge from wall to ceiling.

to take away the angles is to paint the walls, angled areas and ceiling the same colour. Wallpapering everything with a small patterned print will also help visually take away any distinct angles. Another trick is to add tall beadboard wainscoting to the walls, then paint the remaining top wall space and ceiling a great colour.

A room with dark walls

Whenever I paint a very dark room (like a cranberry red dining room or navy blue family room) I paint the ceiling a much lighter version of the floor colour. For example, if the wood floors in a dining room are golden oak, then I'd paint the ceilings a very pale golden taupe colour. This helps take away that crisp light-to-dark edge that would happen with dark walls and white ceiling. It softens the feeling of the room and helps to create a nice glow in the room. Using a gloss paint with dramatic wall colours can also add a touch of glamour and is becoming a big trend.

Wallpaper on a ceiling

The only time I have ever



White walls: Trick the eye by adding tall beadboard wainscoting and painting the wall above and the ceiling in a great colour. CONTRIBUTED

seen wallpaper work well on a ceiling is when a gold or silver-leafed paper was applied, giving the ceiling a sheen and lux touch. This looks exceptionally great in dramatic rooms like dining, powder or bedrooms where silver or

gold metal tones are used.

In basements

A very-barely-there blue is a great option as it keeps the room feeling bright. Blue is also a reflective colour that helps brighten dingy spaces.



Crowning glory: For a dramatic touch, gold-leafed paper provides a luxurious sheen. CONTRIBUTED



Come together: Papering ceilings and walls in a small patterned print minimizes angles. CONTRIBUTED

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Foodie Events Abound

Taste the Nation. Markets and more happening through the end of the month.



SHEL ZOLKEWICH
River City Kitchen
winnipeg@metronews.ca

Taste of the Nation Winnipeg happens on Mar. 24 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at The Fairmont. Now in its 21st year, this event raises critical funds to end childhood hunger. Tickets are \$90 and include unlimited visits to the booths of more than 40 of the city's finest food and beverage purveyors. It's a great way to sample a restaurant you've always wanted to try. Wear comfy shoes and bring a big appetite because you'll be tempted at every turn. For tickets, email Eric at eric.schon@fairmont.com.

Wondering how a farmer decides what to eat? Join the Manitoba Canola Growers for Navigating Food Choices: The Farmer, The Foodie and The Home Economist on Wednesday, March 26 at 7 pm at the Western Canadian Aviation

Museum, 958 Ferry Rd. Hear what the panel (including yours truly) has to say about how and why they make their food choices. You'll walk away with tips and tools on how to make the best food choices for you and your family. It's a free event with snacks and a cash bar. Register at canolarecipes.com.

Head over to Knox Community Kitchen at 400 Edmonton St. from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 28 for homemade preserves, fresh produce and pie! The Fresh Food Market happens every second week and includes lots of ready-to-eat ethnic foods. Come for the live music, have some lunch and leave with a few treats. facebook.com/KnoxCommunityKitchen.

Shel Zolkewich writes about food, travel and the outdoors when she's not eating, on the road or playing outside. Got a food story idea? shel@shelzolkewich.com



Lemon tarts piled high with meringue will be at Taste of the Nation.
SHEL ZOLKEWICH/FOR METRO

Did you know

the UN has declared 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming!

Celebrate and connect with local farmers, like the Ellis's who are growing heart healthy canola!

Canola!
GET WELL, LIVE WELL

Nursing Canada Crossroads

For more information at CanolaForWell.com

An exotic kick of spice

"When I ask for prime beef, my local butcher knows that it better have been dry-aged for at least 40 days," writes Bal Arneson in her book Bal's Spice Kitchen. "It is often difficult to find well-aged meat, but once you try it you will know exactly what I am talking about."

"Infused with the spices I chose ... this is a rare treat for your guests or for you. I have cooked this several times just for myself and thoroughly enjoyed it with a nice glass of red wine."

1. Steak masala: In a skillet, toast the cumin seeds, fennel seeds, mustard seeds and peppercorns on medium-low heat until the spice aromas fill the air, about 30 seconds. Turn off the heat and let the pan cool. Process the spices in a spice grinder until coarsely ground, then add the fenugreek leaves, paprika, chili flakes and salt, and give the grinder a spin.

2. Preheat the grill to medium-high. Sprinkle the steak masala on the steaks. Gently place the steaks on the heated grill and cook for about 3 to 5 minutes on each side for medium steaks, or to your preferred doneness. Let them sit for a few minutes before serving.

3. Toasted coriander blue cheese: Toast the coriander

Ingredients

Steak Masala

- 2 tbsp (30 ml) cumin seeds
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) fennel seeds
- 1 tsp (5 ml) brown mustard seeds
- 1 tsp (5 ml) black peppercorns
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) fenugreek leaves
- 1 tsp (15 ml) smoked paprika
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) red chili flakes
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) salt
- **Steak**
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) steak masala
- four 6 oz (175 g) dry-aged rib-eye steak (I prefer 1 1/2-inch/4 cm thick)

Toasted Coriander Blue Cheese

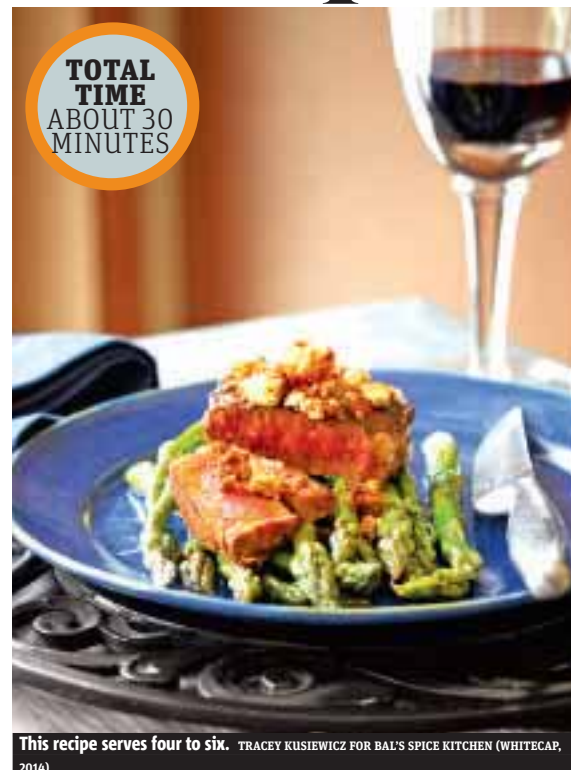
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) coriander seeds
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) blue cheese
- 1 tsp (5 ml) smoked paprika

Sautéed Asparagus

- 1 tbsp (5 ml) cooking oil
- 1 tbsp (5 ml) chopped garlic
- 1 lb (500 g) asparagus, hard ends removed
- salt and pepper to taste

seeds on low heat in a skillet for 30 seconds. Let them cool, then crush them with your hands. In a bowl, thoroughly combine the coriander seeds, blue cheese and paprika.

4. Sautéed asparagus: In a saucepan, heat the oil on medium-high. Add the garlic and cook for 30 seconds. Add



This recipe serves four to six. TRACEY KUSIEWICZ FOR BAL'S SPICE KITCHEN (WHITECAP, 2014)

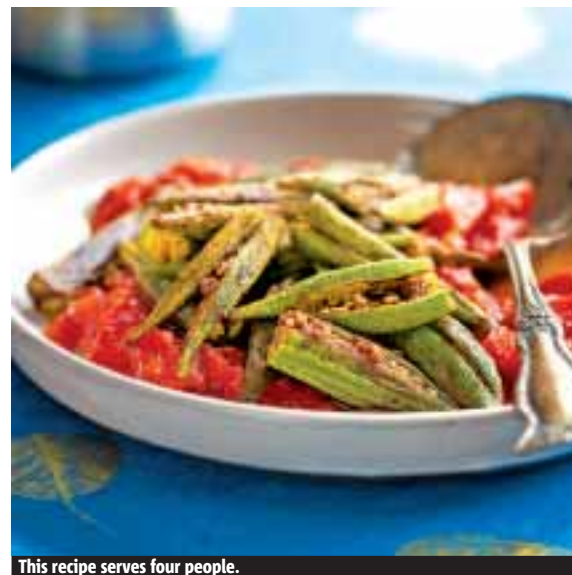
the asparagus and salt and pepper and cook, stirring frequently, until the asparagus is tender, about 10 to 12 minutes.

5. To plate the dish: Place the

asparagus on a plate. Slice the cooked steaks and crumble Toasted Coriander Blue Cheese on top.

EXCERPTED FROM BAL'S SPICE KITCHEN (WHITECAP, 2014)

Side. My Mother's Okra with Sautéed Tomatoes



This recipe serves four people.

1. For the okra: Make an incision down the middle of each okra from one end to the other. Thoroughly mix the spices and salt in a bowl. Place a pinch of spice mixture in

each okra.

2. Heat the oil in a large skillet on medium heat. Gently place the okra in the skillet and cook, stirring frequently,

Ingredients

Okra

- 1 lb (500 g) okra, washed, hard ends removed
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) ground coriander
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ground turmeric
- 1 tsp (5 ml) smoked paprika
- 1 tsp (5 ml) salt
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) grapeseed oil

Sautéed Tomatoes

- 2 tbsp (30 ml) grapeseed oil
- 1 tsp (5 ml) cumin seeds
- two 19 oz (540 ml) cans chopped tomatoes (about 4 cups/1 L)
- salt and pepper to taste

until they are golden brown and soft, about 6 to 8 minutes. Set aside.

3. Heat the oil in a large skillet on medium heat. Add the cumin seeds and cook for 10 seconds. Add the tomatoes, salt and pepper and turn down the heat to low. Cook until the tomatoes are softened, about 8 to 10 minutes.

4. Reheat the okra if necessary. Serve with rice or rotis.

Cookbook of the Week

Spice up your life



The latest release from Bal Arneson, Bal's Spice Kitchen, has a two-fold premise: spice is the key to delicious cooking and making flavourful meals doesn't need to be time consuming. Using traditional Indian recipes as her inspiration, Arneson shows chefs how to complement their dishes with new spice combinations. With a guide to creating your own spice mixtures, recipes include: Mixed Lentils with Eggplant, Tandoori Baked Chicken and more. **METRO**

MMA

Humphries slides into UFC Octagon

Olympian Kaillie Humphries is moving from the bobsled track to the Octagon.

The 28-year-old Calgary native, who piloted Canada to gold at the Sochi Games in two-man bobsled, tweeted Tuesday that she would be at "The Ultimate Fighter Nations Finale" card on April 16 in Quebec City.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Peverley has successful surgery

The Dallas Stars say Rich Peverley has undergone successful surgery to correct an abnormal heart rhythm, just more than a week after the forward collapsed on the bench during a game.

Stars general manager Jim Nill says Peverley was released from the Cleveland Clinic on Wednesday, a day after surgery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

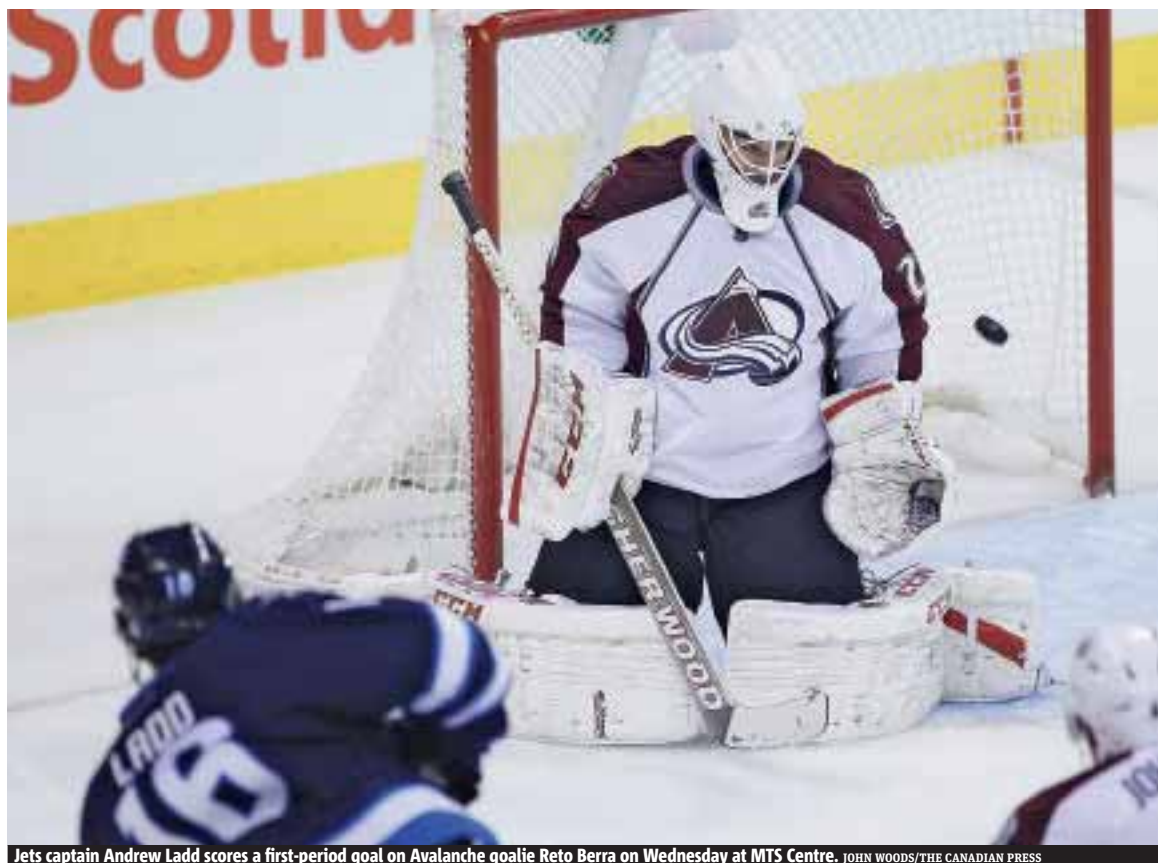
NHL

Kane banged up in win over Blues

Blackhawks leading scorer Patrick Kane left the game against St. Louis after a second-period collision with Brenden Morrow.

Kane was favouring his left leg, but went to the dressing room under his own power in Wednesday night's 4-0 win. He was injured at 7:56 of the second period and didn't return for the third. Morrow fell into Kane after he was checked by Chicago's Sheldon Brookbank.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Jets captain Andrew Ladd scores a first-period goal on Avalanche goalie Reto Berra on Wednesday at MTS Centre. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jets regain some altitude against Avs

NHL. Playoff hopes still alive as Wheeler deals knockout blow in overtime vs. Colorado

Blake Wheeler fired through a crowd in overtime to give the Winnipeg Jets a much-needed 5-4 win over the Colorado Avalanche on Wednes-

On Wednesday

5

Jets

4

Avalanche

day night.
It was the fourth time

out of the five games they've played this season and couldn't settle it in regulation time.

Winnipeg is desperately trying to gain enough ground to claim a wild-card playoff spot in the Western Conference.

But the Avalanche were also playing to hold second spot in the Central Division, as the Chicago Blackhawks

moved past them with a 4-0 win over the St. Louis Blues.

Ryan O'Reilly, Gabriel Landeskog, Nick Holden and Cody McLeod scored for Colorado (44-20-6), which was coming off a 6-3 loss in Montreal.

Andrew Ladd struck twice for the injury-depleted Jets (32-30-9). Eric Tangradi and Evander Kane also scored.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Jays become victim of Happenstance



Toronto starting pitcher A.J. Happe
CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

J.A. Happe offered more questions than answers Wednesday in another rocky outing for the Toronto Blue Jays.

The six-foot-five left-hander, pencilled in as one of Toronto's starters, lasted just 2 2/3 innings in an 11-6 Grapefruit League win over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Happe threw 71 pitches, including 34 strikes in an appearance short on control on a day when pitching coach Pete Walker said the goal was "to get

him in the strike zone."

"It's a big start for him," Walker added.

It did not go according to plan, however, on a sunny 21-degree day before 5,255 at Florida Auto Exchange Stadium.

On the plus side, Jays slugger Jose Bautista hit a pair of two-run homers — his fourth and fifth home runs of the spring. And Melky Cabrera, who now has 19 hits in 45 spring at-bats, drove in two runs with two hits.

And one day after being thumped 18-4 by the Detroit Tigers, the Jays (8-10) rallied from a 3-0 deficit for the win over the Phillies (5-13).

With R.A. Dickey, Mark Buehrle and Brandon Morrow accounting for three-fifths of the starting rotation, the Jays have spent the spring looking for two more to join them.

While Drew Hutchison has been by far the best of the rest, the Jays have so far resisted appointing him part of

the rotation. Instead they have ostensibly given one of the remaining starting jobs to Happe, who has yet to provide much reason for earning it, and said the search continues to fill the final hole.

Happe carried an ERA of 40.50 into Wednesday's game, having given up six runs on six hits with five walks in 1 1/3 innings over two previous spring appearances. A back problem has delayed his spring training progress. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homan enjoying the view from the top

Curling. Ottawa rink wins two more matches to enter the final day of round-robin tied atop standings

The skip's voice rasped and there was fatigue in her face.

Rachel Homan and her Ottawa Curling Club team were ready to put their feet up for an evening and a morning at the Ford World Women's Curling Championship after three straight wins, one of them a white-knuckler.

"Oh my god, so ready. I can't wait to not curl for 24 hours," Homan said Wednesday. "I feel like it's midnight, so it will be nice to get a break."

The Canadians arrived at a break in the schedule atop the standings at 8-1. Switzerland drew even with them after Wednesday evening's draw in which Binia Feltscher defeated Sweden's Margaretha Sigfridsson 5-3.

The Canadians reverted to their custom of both taking the lead and finishing a game early in a 10-3 win over South Korea's Ji-sun Kim, who shook hands after eight ends.

But Canada went the distance in the morning draw. They stole three points over



Canadian skip Rachel Homan heads down the sheet during a 10-3 win over South Korea at the Ford World Women's Curling Championship in Saint John, N.B., on Wednesday. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

the final two ends to rescue a 7-5 win over Germany's Imogen Oona Lehmann.

That was the first time Homan threw her final stone at the world championship and just the second time Canada played a 10th end in Saint John.

They'd beaten Scotland the previous evening and were back on the Harbour

Station ice in the morning.

"It was a long haul, three games in a row on not much sleep and a big grind this morning against Germany," Homan said.

Homan, third Emma Mis-kew, second Alison Kreviazuk and lead Lisa Weagle headed to dinner with family members feeling confident about their position. Canada

In their prime years

28

Each member of Rachel Homan's rink is 28 years old or younger.

concludes the round-robin Thursday against China and Sweden. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

NCAA basketball. Canadians playing key roles in March Madness

The sheer numbers are impressive and will make Canadian basketball fans sit up and take notice of the continued emergence of the game in the country.

But it is more than the two dozen-plus Canadians who'll contest NCAA March Madness starting this week.

To Rowan Barrett, the assistant general manager of Canada's senior men's team and one of the iconic athletes this country has produced, the numbers only tell part of the story.

When fans start tuning in Thursday, the phenomenon is not the quantity but rather the quality.

"These are players in prominent roles," Barrett said in a telephone interview from Los Angeles on Wednesday afternoon. "They are conference MVPs, conference freshmen of the year. It's not just that they are in the tournament, they have major roles and are drivers of their teams."

The top players everyone knows — NBA prospects like Andrew Wiggins, the Big 12 freshman of the year at Kansas; Tyler Ennis of Syracuse, a mid-season finalist for the Wooden Award that goes to the top NCAA player, and Nik Stauskas of Michigan, one of the best shooters in U.S. college basketball.

But there are others, like Big 12 player of the year and scholar-athlete of the year Melvin Ejim of Iowa State and Dwight Powell of Stanford,



Michigan's Nik Stauskas, of Mississauga, Ont., was named the Big Ten player of the year. ADAM HUNGER/GETTY IMAGES

another mid-season Wooden finalist.

The contributions of the 27 Canadians in the tournament should turn some heads.

For Barrett, the depth of talent speaks to the improved caliber of play across the country. Traditionally the overwhelming majority of top Canadian prospects came from Toronto and southern Ontario, but that is not the case any longer.

Khem Birch, second in the NCAA in blocked shots, is from Montreal while Jordan Bachynski, the NCAA leader in blocks is from Calgary; the talent can be found from coast to coast.

"I think it shows the next generation that background doesn't matter," said Barrett. "They see these players from all over, it's exciting for Canada and Canadian basketball."

"They don't go down there to just play. They go down there and player their way into important, major roles."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

The Sun moves into your sign today, so there can be no more excuses. You know what you want, you know how to get it and you know that if you make a genuine effort nothing can stop you. The world is yours.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Cosmic activity in the most sensitive area of your chart means you may tend to fear the worst over the next few days, but that is quite natural. How good or how bad you feel is really up to you alone.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

There are so many positive influences for friendship at the moment that you would be a fool not to take advantage. If you need assistance in any way just open your mouth.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

If you want to move up in the world, it's time to get yourself noticed. It does not matter how much talent you have, what truly matters is that you have a clear goal in mind and that you go after it.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Nothing matters more than the truth and if you keep that in mind over the next few days, you won't go far wrong. The truth may at times be uncomfortable but that is not an excuse to ignore it.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

The Sun's change of signs means you need to change too. It also means you need to get rid of ideas you are comfortable with but which in are holding you back.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

There is no point trying to keep plans to yourself because loved ones and co-workers will find out about them. You have nothing to hide, so let them know what you are up to.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 23

It is one thing to be a hard worker but another to waste time and energy on tasks that mean nothing to you. Your aim today must be to decide what is important to you and what should be trashed.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

The Sun's move into your fellow Fire sign of Aries endows you with the kind of self-belief that moves mountains. There is a world out there waiting to be impressed by your brilliance.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

You don't need to explain why you are doing certain things. Others will respect you more if you are confident about following your dreams. Don't complain. Don't explain. Don't apologize. Just act.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

The Sun moves in your favour today, making it easy to get your own way. Does that fill your head with ideas? It should, and each one of those ideas is entirely legitimate.

Pisces

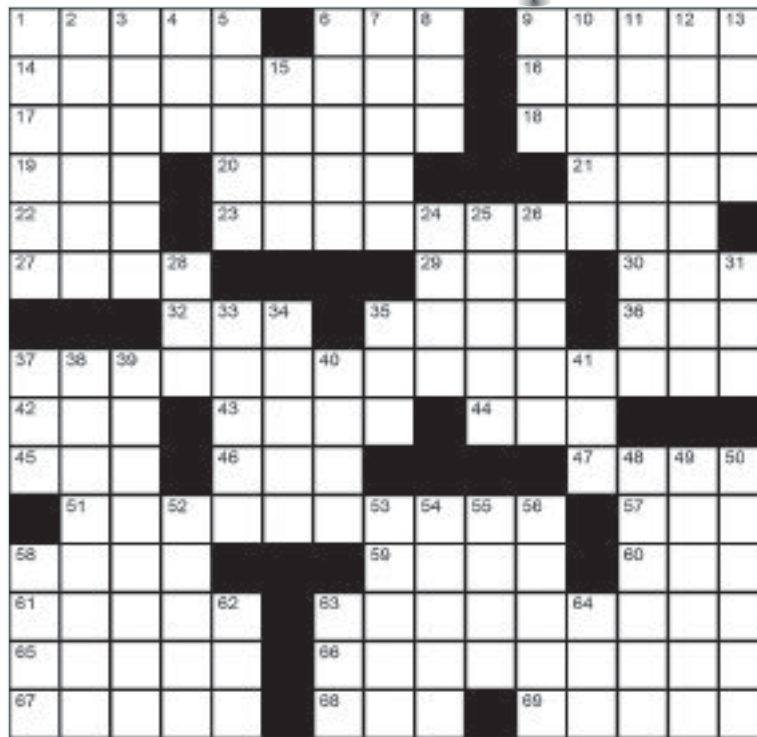
Feb. 20 - March 20

There is not much point trying to appeal to someone's common sense when they are hell bent on following a course of action that is irrational. Let them get on with it and make sure you keep a safe distance between you. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

- Some citrus fruits
- Food grain
- 2250 the old way
- Spring, in Sherbrooke
- Family band from Lakefield, ON
- Yukon's official tree, ___ Fir
- Hell's master
- 'Speed' suffix
- Strauss' Tausend und ___ Nacht
- Positioned horizontally
- Nero's 551
- Mid-coast of BC community, 'Home of the Rain People': 2 wds.
- Gas station
- Pot
- Belief system
- Ms. Thurman
- During
- Hide ___ hair
- Corb Lund and the ___
- ___locka, Florida
- Increases
- Picture
- Puny paranormal power
- Jersey's call
- Hic, __, hoc
- Nova Scotia town
- Sight: French
- Ancient colonnade
- Decorative case
- "Michael Collins" (1996) org.
- Maison's entrance
- Distinctions



- "Our Father which ___ heaven..."
- Craigellachie, BC: Where the Canadian Pacific Railway's ceremonial ___ was driven into the track in 1885
- Do more lawn work

- Tropical cuckoo
- Set of three

Down

- Advantage
- Porridges
- Ex ___ (Book label)
- Once ___ lifetime
- 'The Great' canonized pope, __. __

- GNR's "Sweet Child ___"
- Sleep ___
- Blood-sucker, when doubled
- Real estate database, commonly
- AC/DC's "You Shook ___ Night Long"

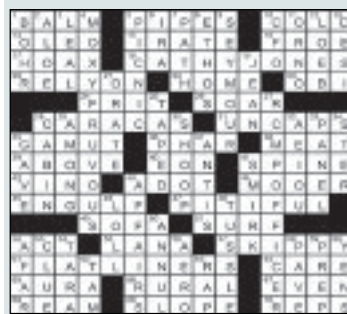
- Type of salad dressing
- "Beat This Heart" by Tim ___ feat. Serena Ryder
- Actress, Jamie-___ Sigler
- Grand
- Unfeeling
- Restaurant side

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

- order
- Outkast member, ___ 3000
- Away
- "___ Doubtfire" (1993)
- Florida locale
- Sometimes, Off ___
- Montreal football players, to fans
- Horticulturist's helper
- American shipping company that has franchises in Canada, The ___
- Camaraderies
- What Snoopy is, ___
- Word with Beatles ...how it's commonly mis-typed
- "Addicted to You" Swedish DJ/producer
- "I get it now!"
- Discontinued
- Mathematical proportion
- Macho guy
- "___" (Posh "Here's me!")
- Theatre great, Alfred ___
- "Villain, thou ___" -Shakespeare
- Box
- Stop
- Old music high note
- American ailer since '71

Yesterday's Crossword

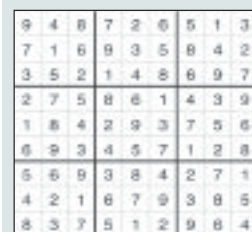


Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Weather

TODAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



MAX: 0°
MIN: -14°



MAX: -9°
MIN: -23°



MAX: -14°
MIN: -22°



JENNA KHAN
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14oz RIBEYE

Bourbon gentleman's butter and mushrooms

14oz T-BONE

Peppercorn crusted and served with horseradish cream

12oz STRIPLOIN

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